

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2220

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UNFDAC, AF, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN POLICY ADVISORY PROGRAM

REF: STATE 174007

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, EMBOFF DISCUSSED FRG AFGHAN POLICE ADVISORY PROJECT WITH FOREIGN OFFICE SOUTH/ SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNTRY DIRECTOR HEHENBERGER. HEHENBERGER REVIEWED HISTORY OF FRG INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECT AND STATED THAT SIX MONTHS AGO MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD "WARM DISCUSSIONS" ON SUBJECT. IN PRESENTING ITS CASE, MIN ECON COOP CLAIMED LIMITED GOALS OF FRG POLICE PROJECT HAD ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED, I.E., REORGANIZATION OF AFGHAN POLICE FORCE AND TRAINING OF ADEQUATE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS. FOREIGN OFFICE, IN SPITE OF USING ARGUMENT THAT CZECHS READY TO TAKE OVER PROJECT AND THUS ENHANCE EAST BLOC INFLUENCE IN AREA, WAS NOT ABLE TO GAIN EXTENSION FOR POLICE ADVISORY TEAM. BEST FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD SALVAGE WAS CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE PROJECT TO SUPPLY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO AFGHAN POLICE. HEHENBERGER STATED THAT US CONCERN OVER POLITICAL
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IMPLICATION OF CZECHS ASSUMING FRG POLICE ADVISORY ROLE

WOULD STRENGTHEN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ATTEMPT TO MOVE FORWARD ON COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PROJECT. HE WAS LESS HOPEFUL IN REGARD TO RENEWAL OF POLICE ADVISORY TEAM MANDATE, SINCE "IT WOULD LITERALLY HAVE TO BE OPENED UP AGAIN AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL." HE WAS NOT SURE IF FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD BE WILLING TO DO THIS BUT PROMISED TO CONSULT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH HIS BUREAU DIRECTOR WHO IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN FROM LEAVE THIS WEEK.

2. HEHENBERGER LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSTANDS AND SHARES US VIEWS RE POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OF HAVING CZECHS REPLACE GERMANS AS POLICE ADVISORS IN AFGHANISTAN. HE ALSO MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN DEBATED THOROUGHLY AT THE HIGHEST MINISTERIAL LEVELS AND THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD LOST THE ARGUMENT. EMBASSY PLANS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT AT HIGH LEVELS IN MINISTRY OF ECON COOP AND FOREIGN OFFICE IN FURTHER ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE FRG TO EXTEND FRG POLICE ADVISORY PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN.
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